

**Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee**  
**August 12, 2015 - MINUTES**

**I. Introductions** – Vickie Tinker, Phil Mattheis, Mike Jeffery, Monica Charles Leinberger, Alex Edwards, Britteny Howell, Angel Ambrose (guest from Nome), Jenn Wagaman, Stephanie Johnson, Deb Evensen, Teri Tibbett.

**II. Approval of Agenda.** Approved, as amended.

**III. Approval of Minutes 7.8.15.** Approved.

**IV. Statewide Workgroup updates**

Vicki and Phil discussed a grant that they received from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority in April for a conference, town hall meeting, and other meetings related to FASD and trauma and developing a trauma center in Kenai/Soldotna. Last week they brought Josh Arvidson from the Anchorage Child Trauma Center to discuss FASD and trauma in their community. They have a model they're working with and are gathering more stakeholders, including establishing a primary association with Frontier Community Services. They have a site identified and are having meetings related to the details of doing this. They are looking at the relationship between autism and FASD, and focus on treatment as well as diagnosis. They decided to serve 12 years and under, as well as mothers, foster parents that serve acute care, as well as brief interventions for children transitioning from their bio homes into foster care (currently a neglected practice). Arvidson said they could assist with professional development. Mike offered a comment by Dr. Sterling Clarren about mothers with a child with FASD who get support have a 50% less chance of having another child with FASD. Mike asked about how the schools are getting involved. Deb answered that Kenai School District is doing a lot to integrate appropriate practices for children and families with FASD, including looking at high school drop-out issues.

Mike offered that Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus is working with Nome schools on an FASD training, through a grant. Norton Sound Health Corporation is considering having an FASD diagnostic team. They are working to pull together people from the region, including the Nome and Bering Strait school districts, to sit down with Jeanne and Jenn Wagaman to figure out the details. The missing piece for Norton Sound is the case management piece. It is hoped that Angel will become the parent navigator. Teri suggested investigating the funds for case management through the Division of Behavioral Health, administered by Genevieve Casey.

Britteny gave an update on the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education FASD Workgroup. She read their newly-determined mission statement, talked about how GCDSE is working on Medicaid updates. SESA had a survey about teacher education regarding FASD.

## **V. FASD Awareness Day Activities Statewide**

Teri reported on the restaurant promotion. K&L Distributors declined to help with the effort this year. Jenn indicated there were some barriers for distribution last year in Fairbanks, including difficulty communicating with managers, it being hunting season, and the tents not arriving in time. Deb, Monica, Jenn, Stephanie volunteered to distribute in Homer, Bethel, and Fairbanks. Teri will follow up with Stephanie (Nome) and Trish Smith (Anchorage) and Juneau Partnerships for Families and Children (Juneau).

Jenn and Vicki talked about a campaign related to wearing red shoes. Go to facebook "Red Shoes Rock Stop FASD."

Monica is working on a Yup'ik language promo for radio. She's communicating with local legislators. Teri will contact Bryce Edgmon and Bob Herron to see if they would volunteer to record an FASD message for the Bethel radio station. Teri will also ask other legislators to do the same thing in other communities. Monica asked that the diagnostic clinics in the state be recognized too.

Stephanie talked about the youth at the Nome Youth Facility working on a writing assignment of FASD messages, that get recorded and aired by the local public radio station. Stephanie will talk to KNOM to see if they'd allow the messages to be distributed to KYUK, KUAC, KTOO, KBRW, KOTZ. Teri suggested the Johnson Youth Center in Juneau might be interested in a similar activity.

Britteny reported GCDSE is coordinating the Anchorage event at the Anchorage School District atrium, with a kids activity with puppet show with puppets, political speakers, providers, self-advocates, families, and 15 informational tables.

Mike reported that there could be interest for an FASD event in Barrow at an August 19, FASD 101 training there.

## **VII. Partnership Project Discussion**

Teri had suggested at the last meeting that the steering committee might identify a project that would support the Partnership's mission.

Shannon Cross emailed and suggested housing for youth in transition with FASD. Several people echoed the importance of that. Britteny suggested that Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) is developing an "811 Program" related to housing for people with disabilities. The Partnership could get involved with the development of that. Deb said the transition age is so important with people with FASD, a huge hole in our state, and what's needed is a support program for youth coming out of school or foster care, or out of prison, and support for parents who are parenting children with FASD, and support for OCS so they are more effective with families with FASD, daily support is needed, not more therapy.

Jenn suggested that in Fairbanks there is no solid clearing house that brings together resources in our state. She suggested an Alaska FASD Resource Center where we could all come together and share ideas and resources.

Monica also suggested that everything we work on be culturally- and rurally-appropriate.

Jenn said better training for the therapeutic foster homes is needed. Deb said the existing system takes the child out of the home, then they go to a series of foster home without appropriate support for people with FASD (no diagnosis), then go to school where they are misunderstood and their PTSD and FASD is interpreted as behavior problems and get put into programs that don't understand the brain differences and so kids.

Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

### **VIII. Other Announcements**

Monica is going to present at Magistrate Judge's conference in Anchorage, Alaska Federation of Native AFN conference, CINA conference. She volunteered to present information from Partnership members and will send out an email with that request.

Teri announced that the book chapter she and Mike completed entitled "Smart Justice in Alaska: From Prevention to Sentence Mitigation" was published in a book by Springer Publishing, called "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and Adults: Legal and Ethical Considerations."

**IX. Next meeting September 16, 2015** (changed one week later to accommodate FASD Awareness Day on Sept. 9).